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# Explorer Update

A publication of the  
La Salle University Athletic Department  
December 1997 — Volume 2, Number 3

## La Salle Women's Basketball tops academic charts

The La Salle University's women's basketball team had the highest grade point average of 300 Division I playing institutions in 1996-97, according to the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA).

The Explorers compiled a 3.501 GPA last year, with seven players gaining better than a 3.50 GPA and one Rhodes Scholar applicant.

"The players are not allowed to ask me questions in practice, because I don't have the answers. They're too smart," quipped La Salle Head Coach John Miller. "I've always preached that we recruit the person more so than the player. The names of the people may change from year to year, but the personality stays the same. This honor just proves that when you recruit quality people, you get quality results on and off the court."

**Katie Wolfe**, a senior co-captain from Ambler, PA, owns a 3.5 GPA majoring in management. As a part-time starter, Wolfe averaged 9.0 points per game and 2.5 assists per game last season. Wolfe was a four-time All-Catholic selection in high school.

**Sarah Weiss**, a senior co-captain from Libertyville, IL, has a 3.59 in elementary education. Weiss enters her final year averaging 2.2 points and 2.7 rebounds per contest.

**Sarah Haynes**, a senior co-captain from New Palestine, IN, possesses a 3.85 GPA with a dual major in math and secondary education. Haynes enters her final season averaging 5.4 points, after finishing fifth in the country in three-point field goal percentage (43.4%) last season.

**Carrie Jewett**, a junior from Circle Pines, MN, has a 3.91 GPA in mathematics while a member of the Honors Program. Jewett begins her junior campaign averaging 3.5 points and 2.3 rebounds per outing.

**Laura Newhard**, a sophomore from Northampton, PA, posted a 3.68 GPA as an education major. In limited action off the bench, Newhard averaged 2.3 points and 1.6 rebounds per game as a freshman. Newhard collected second team All-State honors as a senior in high school.

**Ann Gallagher**, from Springfield, PA, graduated with a 3.6 GPA in psychology, while a member of the Honors Program. As the starting point guard for three seasons, Gallagher averaged 3.9 points and 4.0 assists per game for her career.

**Tina Wahl**, from Ambler, PA, graduated with a 3.99 GPA from the political science program, while a member of the Honors Program. A former walk-on, Wahl was a Rhodes Scholar candidate and as a senior in high school was a member of Channel 6's Best of the Class of 1993.

## Number "5" is Retired

For the first time in school history, a soccer player's number has been retired. **Cesidio Colasante's** number 5 will never be worn by a men's soccer player again.

Colasante ended his stellar career at La Salle by scoring the game-winner in a 3-2 double overtime victory at home versus



*Cesidio Colasante*

Dayton to clinch a spot in the Brine Atlantic 10 Soccer Championships. He scored five goals and added an assist the final weekend to vault the Explorers from sixth place to third and a berth in the playoffs.

C.C. did not score in either the semifinal 3-2 overtime win against Xavier or in the 1-0 championship loss versus Dayton, but was named to the All-Tournament team.

Colasante's performance throughout the season and especially in his final home game propelled him to being selected as a NSCAA third team All-American. He was also named the Atlantic 10 and the Philadelphia Soccer Seven Player of the Year. These two awards gave Colasante

see **Colasante** on page four



## Explorer Training Room and Families Are Expanding

Within the past month, two separate Explorer families have grown in two different ways. Head athletic trainer **Bill Gerzabek** and his wife,



Bill Gerzabek

**Jackie**, had their second child, while Bill's assistant **Kimberly McAllister** recently married **Nicholas Christidhis**.

Gerzabek, who resides in Springfield, Delaware County, is the proud new father of a baby boy. Michael Joseph Gerzabek was born October 8th. He has an older sister Katie, 4, to take care of him.

In his 10th season with the Explorers, Gerzabek helped remodel the training room as part of the Hayman Center reconstruction this past summer. While Bill was re-doing their office, his assistant athletic trainer Kim McAllister was planning to change her name to Christidhis.

McAllister married Christidhis on November 8 at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Upper Darby, PA. Unfortunately, Kim and Nicholas will not be taking their honeymoon until the summer. Kim could not escape her duties as assistant athletic trainer to get away right now. Plus, she is taking classes in the Graduate Education Program.

Kim is in her first year as a full time athletic trainer, and second as a full-time employee. Last year, McAllister served as both assistant athletic trainer and assistant in the Fitness Center. She plans to teach General Science and Earth and Space science on the secondary level.



## Buck the Bartender Asks...

See, when Buck was growing up eons ago, there were only three few sports that interested us -- baseball, basketball and football. We were aware that there were

others but the big three took up most of our time, and I think that's true with anyone in Buck's age range.

But Buck's message for today is going to be about several other sports, not so much on any scale except here at La Salle University. For instance, soccer. Buck doesn't know soccer and can't understand the hold it has on millions of fans around the world.

But we have to tell you - during this past season and especially when **Pat Farrell's** Explorers were fighting for a spot in the Atlantic 10 Conference tournament. We braved some disagreeable weather to sit and watch not only **Cesidio Colasante**, but also his hard-working and underrated teammates fight their way into that tournament and through the heart-breaking 1-0 loss to Dayton in the title game.

Speaking of rain and desolate weather, Buck found himself watching another sport about which we're still learning - field hockey. It poured before and during the Explorers' 5-3 victory over Rhode Island on a dreary November Saturday and they, too, found themselves in the Atlantic 10 championships. So, they lost to West Chester (an A-10 team only in field hockey), but when you glance down the roster of undergraduate players on **Joan Broderick's** team, you know better things lie ahead.

Then there's cross-country. If you have been unfortunate enough to follow Buck through his adventures in this column since the Explorer Update was re-born about a year ago, you may remember our first question:

"Why cross-country?"

Well, until they invent indoor cross-country, Buck won't promise we'll stand and watch a cross-country meet from start to finish. But the more we talk to and meet up with the competitors of the sport, the more admiration you build for the charges of coaches **Charles Torpey** and **Joyce Jellig**. The men came in second in the Atlantic 10 championship race and it was teams like men's soccer, field hockey and cross-country that kept the Explorers in the running for a high spot in the Atlantic 10 Hanes Commissioner Cup race.

In case you're not aware of such a thing, it is a compilation of points in conference sports. And La Salle finished in a tie for fifth last year (in a field of 12 teams), very good considering it was only the Explorers' second go-round in the conference.

So, while most of the public's attention is focused on several high-profile teams, there are many other sports that contribute to the overall athletic picture at La Salle.

Sometime, when you're looking for something different in your sporting life, check out these other games. You may be surprised how much you can learn - even if you start out without a full grasp of what's going on.

We did.

## Hayman Center opener is coming.

*Both the men's and women's basketball team will be hosting games in February.*



## Football Ends First Season



The opening day crowd has reason to cheer as the Explorers have just scored their first touchdown since 1941.

After having about seven months to build a team, Coach **Bill Manlove** and his troops have fought through La Salle's first season of football since 1941. The team went 1-8, but the season was a success in most people's eyes.

There were only a few folks who thought the program would have been ready to start in September. The first game proved to be a tough loss to Fairfield, however the crowd support was excellent. The crowd of 6,652 people gave the Explorers a standing ovation before and after the game. The excitement of having tail-gate parties took the La Salle campus by storm. This theme continued throughout the season - there was always an enthusiastic crowd on hand to cheer on the Explorers.

Some people thought there was no way that the Explorers could have won a game this season. Manlove and the team proved many critics wrong when he coached the team to a 25-16 victory over St. Peter's in week two. It was the Explorers first win since 1941 and the team celebrated accordingly. As the players rushed the field to celebrate, Manlove was doused with a bucket of water. Many people began to believe that La Salle could be a football power some day soon.

see **Football** on page four

## Where Are They Now?

Tiffany Carr, La Salle assistant women's soccer coach and a four-year performer 1991-94, has been working in the sales department of the Philadelphia Kixx during the soccer season.

Two of her former teammates, Laura Cesaro and Dawn Jaffee are on the coaching staff at St. Joseph's University... and another teammate Jeannine Cridge, teaches at Upper Perkiomen High School, and is head coach of the girls' team at Gwynedd Mercy Academy.

## Meet the Athletic Administration

That old sports adage about great athletes not necessarily transforming into successful coaches doesn't always hold water.



*John Lyons*

There's **John Lyons**, for instance.

An outstanding swimmer in high school, college and international competition, Lyons has established himself as a top coach during his tenure as La Salle University's men's and women's swim coach and Aquatic Director of Kirk Natatorium in Hayman Center.

When the Bucknell and Penn State grad took over the Explorers' in 1982, La Salle was established as one of the best in the East and it has maintained that status ever since.

"We inherited a fine program," Lyons said, "and we've been fortunate enough in recruiting good swimmers and good people to keep it at a high level."

Lyons' staff - assistant **Malachi Cunningham** and diving mentor **Chris Bergere** - have some good things going for them, including the program's recent history. The pool itself is among the East's finest and the coaches' city, suburban and national connections come in handy in the recruiting process.

"At La Salle, the support we receive for swimming is excellent," he said. "Administration, alumni and staff all work hard and it shows in our success."

When he's not in the pool, John is at home in Maple Glen with his wife Jody and sons, Danny 8, Jeffrey 5, and Zachary 1.





## Upcoming Athletic Events

**Dec. 29-30 - Women's Basketball**  
La Salle hosts the CoreStates Invitational at Philadelphia Textile. First Round: La Salle vs. Long Island 6PM; Georgia vs. Fairfield 8PM. Second night: 6PM/8PM games. Tickets available at the door.

**January 17 - Former Athletes Day**  
Former La Salle athletes can get a special ticket package. The package includes two (2) tickets and a pre-game reception in Ovations for \$25. Temple vs. La Salle men's basketball 2:00 PM. Call 215-951-1999 to order tickets.

**February 21 - Men's Basketball**  
La Salle's varsity is scheduled for its first game in the renovated Hayman Center, vs. Virginia Tech, 7:30 PM. For information call 215-951-1999.

**March 11- Baseball/Softball**  
Baseball and softball return from their Florida trips to host their home openers. Baseball vs. Rider, 3:00PM Hank DeVincent Field; softball vs. Penn on March 20 at 2:30 PM at Good Shepherd.

**May 14 - Sports Trivia Auction**  
Men's basketball coach Speedy Morris heads an all-star list of auctioneers to benefit La Salle basketball program and area boys and girls clubs, at Kowalski, 133 Shurs Lane, Manayunk. For information call Bob Vetrone at 215-951-1637.

## Football

*continued from page three*

Despite a struggling offense, La Salle fans were treated to "creative" football as Bill Manlove tried some new things. He lined up in five wide receiver sets, with four on one side stacked one behind another. The fourth in line would be either **Ralph Sacca** or **Mike Bramowski**. One quarterback would lateral to the other, then he would run or throw from there.

Highlights of the year included Parent's Day, when more than 5,800 fans turned out to hear, among other things, former La Salle President Brother Patrick Ellis sing the National Anthem. Once again the tailgating was in abundance and the crowd enjoyed a hard fought game on a sunny and warm October day.

La Salle then hosted Central Connecticut for its first Homecoming game, with the hope there will be many more to come. For the first time all season the weather did not cooperate. On this damp, dreary day, 3,624 fans showed up to cheer on the Explorers. Many of these fans returned to campus for the first time in a long time. In a change from the norm, Bramowski would toss a 35-yard touchdown pass to Sacca.

As the season wore down, the fans realized something special was beginning. They gave the team standing ovations after every game to show they were appreciative of the effort the team had given. So after 11 months, the team completed its first season, now La Salle looks to its bright future.

## Colasante

*continued from page one*

his fifth and sixth Player of the Year honors of his career. He also was named to the first team Mid-Atlantic Region and was selected to play in the prestigious Umbro All-Star game.

He ends his phenomenal career with 76 goals, good for 13th in NCAA history, and 183 points, 14th in NCAA history.

C.C. joins an elite group of performers at La Salle who have had their number retired. That group includes **Gene McDonnell** and **Hank DeVincent** from baseball, **Tom Gola**, **Lionel Simmons**, **Michael Brooks**, and **Ken Durrett** from men's basketball, and **Jenn Cole** from women's basketball.

La Salle University  
Department of Athletics  
1900 West Olney Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19141

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